



CONSTELLATION

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D.C. Schools open on time

by Doug Garman
Public Affairs Office

For the third year in a row, all of the 147 public schools in the District of Columbia opened the new school year as scheduled Sept. 5.

For the past three years, the District of Columbia Public Schools, or DCPS, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Baltimore District, have been working together to upgrade and modernize school facilities. This year's timely opening of schools is evidence their work is paying off.

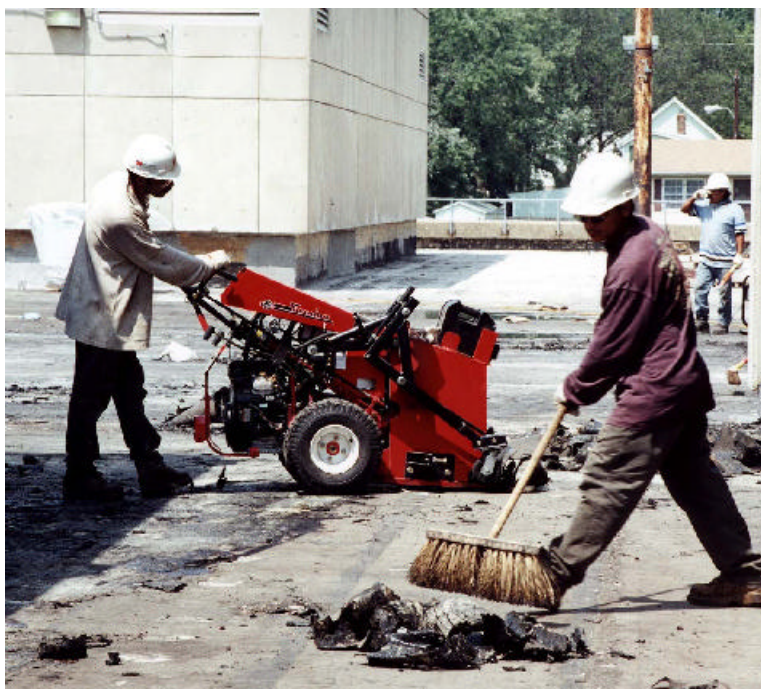
In preparation for the start of school, the Corps assisted DCPS in making needed structural repairs, installing new roofs and windows, replacing old and failing boiler and ventilation systems and removing environmental hazards.

Renovations also included upgrades to bathrooms, painting, carpet replacement, Americans with Disabilities Act projects and other safety and security repairs.

"With the support of DCPS staff, the school community and local contractors, we have made tremendous headway this summer toward improving school facilities," said Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr., Baltimore Dis-

trict commander. "There is no doubt our efforts are helping to create safer and healthier schools for the children of the District of Columbia."

been completed involving nearly every school. A similar number of projects is planned during the remainder of the year. DCPS plans to invest approxi-



Workers remove old roofing materials from Howard D. Woodson High School.

"The schools are clean, the teachers are in class, and the students are where they are supposed to be. It's as though school never ended. That's the way it should be," said Dr. Paul L. Vance, superintendent of D.C. Public Schools in a recent interview with the *Washington Times*.

So far this year, 400 improvement projects have

imately \$50 million this year in capital improvements of school facilities.

Following several years of delayed school openings, repeated complaints about poor school facilities and a lawsuit from a local citizens' group, DCPS officials approached the Corps in 1998 about the possibility of providing

(continued on p. 3)



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

[http://
www.nab.usace.army.mil](http://www.nab.usace.army.mil)

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District Engineer
Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr.

Public Affairs Chief
Lucy Lather



Commander's Comment

Your contributions

by Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr.

Last month NAD commander Brig. Gen. M. Stephen Rhoades sent all employees a memorandum entitled "Our Service to the Nation."

I echo his sentiments wholeheartedly, and have included the memorandum here in my column because I feel his words are worth repeating.

Your work is so important to our nation's well-being,

and you must never forget that, no matter how intense the criticism gets. We may make some mistakes along the way, but in the end, we will always do what is right and in the best interests of the nation.

Essays.

Subject: Our Service to the Nation

1. Over the past few months the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been at the center of a firestorm of controversy—critics have challenged our integrity and there has been considerable debate on the role, future and, most importantly, control of the Corps. This has happened from time to time throughout our long and proud history. Recent articles in newspapers have not been balanced in their coverage of the complex issues we face as the nation's builder of navigation, flood control, environmental protection/restoration and other infrastructure works that Congress has asked us to do. These articles are recognized by many as both unbalanced reporting and agenda driven journalism. I realize that the negative coverage of the Corps and our muted response have probably caused some uneasiness for many of you as it has for me. In an effort to stem the tide of uneven reporting, we are working in conjunction and with full participation of our project sponsors, taking the initiative to provide balanced information to the public.

2. We expect another series of articles in the near future that will again attack the credibility and

neutrality of the Corps on dredging of the nation's ports and the C&D Canal. (Ed. Note: See Washington Post 11 Sep 00.) I have no expectation that they will be any more balanced than the previous articles. We have and are continuing to provide factual information to you, the media and our partners to bring balance and perspective to the issues.

3. Do not be disheartened by these articles, for in truth, the controversy they spark sheds even more light on the valuable role that we fulfill. We all work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for one reason: service to the nation. We strive each day to do the right thing. Transparency is one of our strengths — we welcome the diverse opinions and thoughts of all citizens who wish to comment on what the Corps is doing or considering doing. We are "honest brokers," who deliver sound science, engineering and economics to the political process. We have and will remain independent of politics as we pursue the challenge of balancing navigation and flood control works against the needs of public safety, the economic well being of our citizens, and our delicate environment within the intent of the law. This requires careful reasoning on our part and we

remain, of all federal agencies, best suited to accomplish this complex task. This is confirmed as I travel through NAD's area of responsibility and come into contact with citizens who value the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' balanced approach to the nation's complex and competing infrastructure issues.

4. Rest assured that both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the North Atlantic Division serve our nation and citizens well. We will continue to provide unbiased science, engineering and economic recommendations to our elected leaders for decision. We will remain partners with other federal and state agencies, cooperating with them in developing collective judgment, as they carry out their mandates in the interests of all our citizens. The integrity of our process and the integrity of our workforce is the strength that will sustain us regardless of what is printed in the media — I will jealously protect our integrity.

5. Like you, I take great pride in the professionalism that is the hallmark of every member of the North Atlantic Division and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

M. STEPHEN RHOADES
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

Corps finishes schools on time *(continued from cover)*

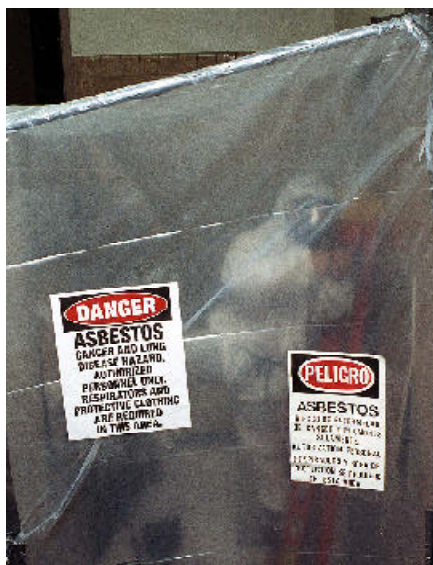
technical assistance to their capital improvements program. In April 1998, an agreement was reached between the two organizations. Initial projects included emergency repairs to roofs, windows, boiler and chiller replacements and a variety of other much needed interior and exterior repairs. As a result of this cooperative effort, schools opened the 1998 school year as scheduled for the first time in recent years.

In addition to assisting with needed repairs, the Corps is involved in supporting the designs for eight new modernized schools selected for the DCPS modernization program. The construction of the first of these high-tech schools began in June.

DCPS has also asked the Corps to provide program and project management support for capital improvement projects, oversee critical operations and maintenance projects, assist in develop-

ing a five-year capital improvements budget, assess facilities and help plan a long-term improvements program, and assist in developing the educational facilities long-range master plan.

"Our partnership with DCPS remains strong, and we're extremely proud to have this opportunity to help renew classrooms and improve the learning environment for the district's 68,000 public school students," said Fiala.



Asbestos abatement is ongoing at several D.C. schools.



Inside an enclosed area, a worker removes asbestos at Park View Elementary School.



A worker installs a new window at Macfarland Middle School.



Construction begins on Key Elementary School, the first of eight new modernized schools to be built in D.C.

Photos by Susanne Bledsoe

Volunteers spend day cleaning up

Story by Cori Brown
Operations Division
Photos by John Sherrill

"It sparkles." That's how Operations Division Chief Chris Correale described a beautiful day at Raystown Lake. That "sparkle" had a little extra gleam on Saturday, Aug. 26.

Not only did Mother Nature cooperate with a picture postcard day, but 1,259 volunteers also helped polish the "crown jewel of Pennsylvania" during the 11th Annual Raystown Lake Clean Up Day.

For several hours, volunteers fanned out all across the land near the lake like soldier ants on a mission.

Everything imaginable was snatched up and bagged, from a mattress and tires to thousands of chewing tobacco cans and soda bottles.

People crawled through bushes and waded in knee-deep water to retrieve trash left behind by others.

"It doesn't matter that it's other people's trash. We care

about this lake and just want to keep it clean," said Nick Lambert, a long time user of the lake, who summed up the efforts of many volunteers.

Local businesses donated lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs with all the trimmings and over 250 prizes for the volunteers to have a chance to win.

Entertainment by the classic rock band Second Edition kept people hopping and tapping their toes.

Correale presented the Friends of Raystown Lake, a cooperative association, with a special award of excellence for their commitment to enhancing the natural resources of Raystown Lake.

The day proved to be a winner for everyone who participated, and the lake sparkles a bit brighter because of it.



Volunteers pick up trash along the lake edge at the 11th Annual Raystown Lake Clean Up Day.



A volunteer uses his boat to retrieve trash from the lake.

Baltimore District history quiz

Select the caption that correctly describes this photograph.

- Engineers from the old USSR design and build the Russian steppes in southeastern Europe.
- Alaska District constructs a channel to contain lava flows from Pavlof volcano on the Aleutian Range.
- Corps of Engineers large equipment operators practice their skills at a specially designed test track at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.
- Construction workers build the 2,130-foot-long and 296-foot-high Jennings Randolph Dam on the North Branch of the Potomac River in Garrett County, Md., and Mineral County, W.Va., a Baltimore District project constructed between 1971 and 1981.

In doubt? Call Public Affairs, 410-962-4088.



Photo from Baltimore District Archives

Quiet, helpful employee selected for courtesy award

by Mary Beth Thompson
Public Affairs Office

Tonya M. Manuel remembers a remarkable uncle who lived one generation away from slavery and survived to the age of 110. She never saw him as a young man. Manuel recalls his aged, wrinkled skin and his glassy eyes covered with cataracts.

"He always told me to do unto others as you would have them do unto you," she said. "I took that to heart."

That philosophy is the essence of the quiet respect and helpfulness that characterize Manuel, a secretary in the Susquehanna Section of the Civil Projects Development Branch in Planning Division. She was named the District's Courteous Employee of the Month for October.

"I sit in an open area, and people always walk past," the

soft-spoken Manuel said. "I catch their eye, and we speak. Before you know it, they ask, 'Do you know where this is?' or, 'Can you help with that?' and I'm glad to assist."

Manuel maintains an open, friendly manner and greets people with a smile, so they will not be hesitant to come to her with questions or for assistance. She said the biggest challenge to a courteous attitude is negative people.

"But there's none in Planning Division," she said. "It's like a family there."

Manuel views the people who work in Planning as her responsibility. She sees it as her job to take care of them, just as she takes care of her own family.

Manuel's responsibilities at home are no small task either. She is the mother of five, ages 6 to 14. Two were the children of a sister who died when she was 30



Photo by Susanne Bledsoe

Tonya M. Manuel

years old. Manuel took them in and is raising them.

"I wouldn't have it any other way," she said.

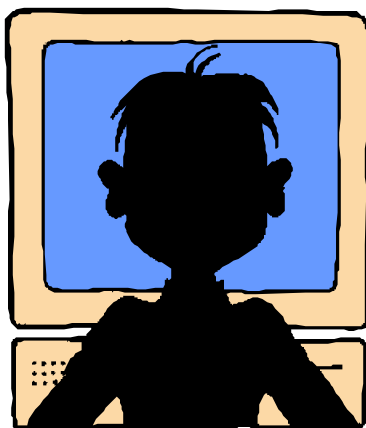
The early death of Manuel's sister made her adopt words to live by that shed further light on her courteous attitude.

"Life is too short to be sad, angry or hold grudges," she said.

Caught on the Web

FedAmerica, a privately-owned company geared to the federal employee, offers free newsletters and handbooks as well as information on pay and benefits at their website, <http://www.fedamerica.com>.

For the official federal government viewpoint on human resources, check the Office of Personnel Management's <http://www.opm.gov>. The Army personnel website is at <http://www.cpol.army.mil>. It has job announcements, links to



regional civilian personnel centers, plus several resources, such as a position description

library and access to Easy ACCES, the Army Civilian Career Evaluation System online.

It's getting toward the time of year when we watch to weather more carefully than usual. One site that's helpful is <http://www.weather.com>. Type in your zip code for a local weather report. The National Weather Service's website, at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov>, includes data, warnings and forecasts. To see satellite photos of U.S. weather, key in <http://www.goes.noaa.gov>.

District suggests changes to permit process

Baltimore District issued a public notice Sept. 15 announcing proposed revisions to the Maryland State Programmatic General Permit.

The current general permit includes a streamlined state and federal permit process to authorize up to three acres of impact to tidal wetlands and up to five acres of impact to nontidal wetlands.

One of the proposed modifications would reduce this upper impact limit to one acre for tidal and nontidal waters of the United States.

Applicants who propose activities that would affect more than one acre would be required to obtain another form of authorization from the Corps. There are also several other proposed revisions.

The District developed the proposed changes after discussion and negotiation with the National Wildlife Federation, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and other environmental organizations.

Before a decision is reached, there will be a public hearing and comment period for the public.

The current Maryland general permit was issued by the Baltimore District on May 6, 1996, and will expire on June 1, 2001.

HQ, USACE acting commander recognizes Baltimore District employees

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Acting Commander Maj. Gen. Russell L. Fuhrman recognized District employees who were involved in the August Headquarters move at a special ceremony Sept. 8 in Washington, D.C.

District employees orchestrated the complex move of 900 employees from the old offices in the Pulaski Building to the new ones in the General Accounting Office Building.

The District had been responsible for the design and construc-

tion of the new USACE Headquarters offices there.

Fuhrman formally acknowledged these employees who handled the challenge:

James S. Turkel, Harvey L. Johnson, Diane F. Raspi, Elizabeth A. Davis, Janice L. White, Wanda Coates-Flowers, John R. Calloway, Dan Encinas, Michael Armstrong, Debra Strickland, Christine C. Chabai-Mercier, Glenn Morsey, Robert Frantz, Cathey Robertson, Tony Epps, Joe Schaefer and Patricia Coury.

Fort Detrick's new physical fitness center complete; opens this month

Col. Charles, J. Fiala, Jr., Baltimore District commander, will speak at a ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 5 at Fort Detrick, Md., to celebrate the opening of the new physical fitness center there.

The completion of the 36,445-square-foot physical fitness center marks the end of the District's \$35 million Base Realignment and

Closure program at Fort Detrick.

The District has constructed five facilities there since 1998 to accommodate the move of commands from the now-closed Fort Ritchie.

All but the clinic, which was not designed in-house, were entirely District managed projects, from master planning through construction phases.



Deputy District Engineer Lt. Col. Gregory E. Stinner (I) presents Maj. Graham Prowse, a British army engineer, with a District plaque during a ceremony in the executive office Sept. 14. The plaque was given in appreciation for Prowse's efforts during his year-long developmental assignment with the District as part of a U.S.-U.K. military exchange program.

Photo by Tex Jobe

Bagpiper Rogers wins agains

For the second year in a row, PPMD's Michael Rogers is a winner at the international bagpipe competition held at the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban, Scotland.

During the August competition, Rogers beat out 29 other competitors to take first place in the gold medal contest and become only the second American to ever win this honor.

The Argyllshire Gathering is one of the two premiere solo bagpipe competitions in Scotland and has taken place almost every year since the mid-1800s.

At last year's event, Rogers

won the silver medal contest, which made him eligible to compete in this year's gold medal contest.

As a result of winning, Rogers is now eligible to compete in next year's senior medal contest, which is the third and highest tier of the competition.

Rogers has been invited to play at the Glenfiddich Piping Championship later this month at Blair Castle in Blair Atholl, Scotland. This event features the winners of the 10 major piping competitions from all over the world and is recorded by British television.

PM2000 initiative

DC Public Schools office becomes test for GBC concept

As part of the Project Management 2000 initiative, Baltimore District opened a test Geographic Business Center at its D.C. Public Schools office last month.

PM 2000 moves the management aspects of projects physically closer to the customer.

The concept calls for project managers to lead multi-disciplined teams located with or near customers at Geographic Business Centers, called GBCs, throughout the command.

Customer proximity is expected to improve communication and remove barriers that hinder effectiveness. Programming remains in Baltimore.

Using existing facilities at the DCPS office was a practical and relatively quick way to establish a test of PM 2000 ideas, to see how they work in the field and

to learn from the process.

David Morrow, DCPS project manager, leads the team at the test GBC.

The primary goal of PM 2000 is greater customer satisfaction.

"After all is said and done, customer satisfaction will define our success," said Col.

Charles J. Fiala, Jr., Baltimore District commander.

The test, which will continue well into the next fiscal year, will help the PM 2000 team evaluate and refine the GBC concept.

"As I see it, we must take advantage of the opportunities to improve and implement those that make sense," Fiala said.

"GBCs may not be the answer for all projects, but I am pleased with the results I am seeing in the DCPS program. Our people are making a difference."

News you can use

EAA

2000 Entertainment coupon books—Still available; cost is \$25.

Maryland Renaissance Festival—Saturdays and Sundays, thru Oct. 22; 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Crownsville, Md. Discounted tickets: adults, 16+, \$11; children, 7-15, \$5; under 6, free. Enjoy feasting, musicians, performers, jousting, a visit by King Henry VII and Queen Katherine of Aragon and more. Artisans will have handcrafted wares for sale, too.

Contact Angie Blizzard at X-4649 for books or tickets.

Big Award

The Associated Builders and General Contractors of Metropolitan Washington and Virginia chapters selected the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research as the winning project for the 2000 Excellence in Construction award. The WRAIR project was selected from the "Mega" category. Congratulations to the entire team for their work on this project.

CFC begins this month

The Baltimore District Combined Federal Campaign will kick off this month and run until December.

Key persons from each division and organization will contact employees to give them an opportunity to participate in the program.

CFC offers a vehicle for public support of more than 1,000 social, education and health and welfare organizations.



Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715
Official Business

Baltimore Newsmakers

Welcome to...

Daniela Caughron and
Nancy Hammond, EN.

Farewell to...

Vanessa Johnson, EN;
Katherine Will, OC, who transferred to Norfolk District; **Lisa Kresovich**, CO; **Gail Barham** and **Dave Worthington**, CAO.

Get well wishes to...

Pat Pope, WAD; **David White**, OC; **Aisha Dorsey**, CAO; and **Cliff Burdeaux**, retired EN employee.

Welcome back to...

Harold Clingerman, PL, who returned from Kuwait.

Congratulations to...

Mark Schaub, RM, for receiving a Commander's Award from Brig. Gen. Rhoades, NAD commander.

Transfers...

Maggie Poliszczuk, HR, to IMO; **Joan Pamperien**, WAD, to PL; **Aida Vasquez**, New York District, to OP; **Joan Pamperien**, DC Schools, to PL; **Allen Forman**, **Walter Ferony**, **Umesh Malhotra**, and **Lance Ozsko**, CAO, to CWAOC.

Temporary assignments

Steven Everette, CWAOC, to HQUSACE until January.

Engineer, automobile collector dies at 91

Willard Prentice, former civil engineer with Baltimore District, died Aug. 31.

A member of the Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees and a Corps employee for 40 years, Prentice began collecting antique cars in 1949 when he bought a 1922 Ford roadster for \$45. Over the years, he bought and sold many more old cars.

When the Baltimore Harbor Tunnel opened in 1957, his 1909 Model T Ford was second in the procession until the lead car broke down. Then his car took over and charged out of the tunnel.

Civil engineer dies

Jim Eutsler died Sept. 12. He began work at the Corps in 1973 as a civil engineering technician in Design Branch and retired to his farm in Virginia in 1998.



*Daylight-Saving
Time Ends
October 29, 2000*